



Warwickshire Local History Society

BULLETIN

No 63

Summer 2024

Editor's letter: There's too much of interest to include, so I refer you to my last missive, which still holds true.

Future Meetings of the Society

Meetings are held at the Primary School Hall, Aylesford School, Tapping Way, Warwick, CV34 6XR, 7.30pm; coffee available from 7pm

- 17 September David Paterson on *Two Newdigate Ladies*.
- 15 October Mike holder on *Sutton Park: the origins, components and afterlife of a medieval deer park*
- 19 November Mairi Macdonald on *The Gunpowder Plot in the Midlands*.
- 11 January Online meeting: awaiting confirmation from speaker
- 18 February Alan Godfrey on *Roman Alcester*

2024 Outings

Rowan Fisher has again arranged a variety of outings for this year, which are listed below. The website will be updated as details become available, and members will be emailed about two months before each event. In the mean time, save the dates.

- 21 September All Saints Church, Burton Dassett, 2-5pm: Join Dr Stephen Wass for a talk in the beautiful surroundings of All Saints Church, Burton Dassett, a stunning church with medieval wall paintings. Hear about the historic background to the shrunken village and church of Burton Dassett before Stephen focuses on the archaeological excavations in the graveyard and 'village green' outside the churchyard wall together with the recording and re-interpretation of the 'holy well'. After refreshments, Stephen will take us around the outside of the church and there will be an optional walk (or drive) up to the nearby beacon. £12 members, £14 non members, to include refreshments. Booking form online at <https://www.warwickshirehistory.org.uk/events.php>
- 30 November Lord Leycester Hospital, Warwick: see website (as above) for booking form

Other dates for your diary

Details may change, so please check with each society. There is a wonderful resource for local history and research groups on the Our Warwickshire website. If you want to find out about a local group (or indeed if there is one) use this link www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk and follow the menu link to local groups, where you can also add your own organization.

- 7 September Alcester & District LHS, Greig Hall, Alcester: 50th Anniversary Lecture by Prof Alice Roberts, on "*Ancestors*", a history of Britain through burials. Tickets cost £20 and are available through PSW, Bull's Head Yard, Alcester
- 9 September Aston Cantlow & District LHS, Wilmcote Village Hall, 7.30pm: Paul Harding & Helen Lee on *The Tudor Apothecary*.
- 9 September Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start: Julian Davey on *1,000 years of Arrow*.
- 10 September Quinton Local History Society, Quinton Methodist Church Hall, Ridgeway Ave, Halesowen, 7.30pm: Mary Bodfish on *Richard III – the Monster, the Myth & the Man*.
- 11 September Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: Ned Williams on *History with a Dividend: the story of the Co-op*.
- 13 September Lighthorne History Society, Lighthorne Village Hall, 7.30pm: A talk from a representative of the Gaydon Motor Museum
- 17 September Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: Andrew Reekes on *Transforming a City: the work of the Civil Gospel in Birmingham*.
- 19 September Warmington Heritage Group, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Steven Wass on *The Civil War in Banbury*.
- 20 September Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: Nick Leigh Birch on *Marie Corelli: the Life, Literature & Legacy of Stratford's 'Great Little Lady'*.
- 24 September Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: A presentation by Warwickshire Metal Detecting Club on *History unearthed: finds from the local area*.
- 27 September Welford & Weston LHS, Welford Memorial Hall 7.30pm: Prof Chris Dyer on *Roads & travel before 'improvements'; with lessons from Welford & Weston*.
- 8 October Quinton Local History Society, Quinton Methodist Church Hall, Ridgeway Ave, Halesowen, 7.30pm: Lawrence Ince on *Charles Dickens, Warwickshire and the Great Jennens Case*.
- 9 October Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: Ian Greig on *India – some Alcester connections, and a tour of its monuments*.
- 14 October Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start: Richard Churchley on *Local Place Names in Worcestershire & Warwickshire*.
- 17 October Warmington Heritage Group, Village Hall, 7.30pm: John Bishop on *The history of the Gaydon RAF base*.
- 18 October Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: Lindsey Armstrong on *The Medieval Wall Paintings in Stratford-upon-Avon's Guildhall*.
- 18 October Kineton & District LHG, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Maggie Wood on *A dive into Leamington's photographic archive*.
- 22 October Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: AGM, from 7pm, then Richard Churchley on *Needle making in Worcestershire & Warwickshire, 1640-1940*.
- 23 October Berkswell & District History Group, Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common, 2pm: Robert Booth on *The sweet life of Bourneville*.
- 28 October Brandon, Bretford & Wolston History Group, Brandon Club, 7.30pm: Jo Golby on

Christmas, Victorian style.

- 29 October Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Gill Mills & Bob Bristow on *Coventry War Memorial Park Remembrance Trees*.
- 30 October Marton LHG, Village Hall, 7.30pm: *Tales from the Churchyard*.
- 8 November Lighthorne History Society, Lighthorne Village Hall, 7.30pm: Mairi Macdonald on *The Gunpowder Plot in the Midlands*.
- 11 November Aston Cantlow & District LHS, Wilmcote Village Hall, 7.30pm: Pat Atkins on *What did the Tudors wear?* with costumes and accessories.
- 11 November Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start: Sheila Woolf on *'Another Country'- the story of Stoneleigh men in the Great War*
- 12 November Quinton Local History Society, Quinton Methodist Church Hall, Ridgeway Ave, Halesowen, 7.30pm: Janice Andrews on *1951 Festival of Britain*.
- 13 November Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: Roger Pringle on *Bidford, Booze and the Bard: another look at some Warwickshire Legends*.
- 15 November Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: Graham Sutherland on *The Gunpowder Plot, 1605*.
- 15 November Kineton & District LHG, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Roger Butler on *William James – Stratford's pioneering railway engineer*.
- 21 November Warmington Heritage Group, Village Hall, 7.30pm: David Judd on *The Warmington Judd family, and where it has taken me*.
- 24 November Lapworth Local History Group, Lapworth Village Hall, 7.45pm: Tim Clark on *The Beauchamp Chapel*.
- 25 November Brandon, Bretford & Wolston History Group, Brandon Club, 7.30pm: Jill Kashi on *Knowing your place; Victorians 'in service'*.
- 26 November Stoneleigh History Society, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Sheila Woolf on *Stoneleigh, Sugar and Slavery*.
- 27 November Berkswell & District History Group, Village Hall, Station Road, Balsall Common, 2pm: Steve Dimmer on *Yule be surprised! why Christmas is Christmas*.
- 27 November Marton LHG, Village Hall, 7.30pm: *Marton area from old maps and LIDAR*.
- 29 November Welford & Weston LHS, Welford Memorial Hall 7.30pm: Phil Taylor & Colin Clay on *Back tracks; detecting the past*.
- 11 December Alcester & District LHS, St Benedict's High School, Alcester, 7.30pm: Max Keen on *Sir Francis Drake England's Greatest Mariner*.
- 20 December Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: Richard Churchley on *Christmas songs through the ages: from the Board's Head Carol to Bing Crosby*.
- 13 January Aston Cantlow & District LHS, Wilmcote Village Hall, 7.30pm: Richard Churchley on *Plague, Pox and Pestilence*.
- 13 January Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start: Gillian White on *Mary, Queen of Scots*.
- 17 January Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: Verity Tiff on *The Phoenix*

Rises: a history of Coventry and its trades.

- 17 January Kineton & District LHG, Village Hall, 7.30pm: Alex Harvey on *The use of immersive tech to explore the medieval tunnels of Warwick and other sites.*
- 31 January Welford & Weston LHS, Welford Memorial Hall 7.30pm: Dr John Wilmot on *In search of Health; new services in 1820 Warwickshire.*
- 10 February Kenilworth History & Archaeology Society, Senior Citizens' Club at 7:30pm for a prompt 7:45pm start: AGM followed by Anthony Rich on *Curdworth Skirmish.*
- 21 February Bidford & District LHS, Crawford Memorial Hall, 7.30pm: *The Great Escape: Stalag Luft 111, 1942-45:* Alistair Price tells the story of his father, Kenneth's, life in the POW camp, and part in the planning of the Great Escape
- 21 February Kineton & District LHG, Village Hall, 7.30pm: William Deakin on *The history of The Hunt in Kineton and south Warwickshire.*
- 28 March Welford & Weston LHS, Welford Memorial Hall 7.30pm: Karen Dickinson on *Forging ahead; the role of the Forge in Welford.*

Societies' news

Not all of our member societies have a regular programme of speakers, focusing rather on research projects connected with their area. I would be pleased to learn of any such group's research projects. We all know that local history isn't just about talks, but also about active participation in projects.

Recent publications

Marshall G Hall, *Medieval Bridges of Middle England* (Windgather Press, 2024), £45, ISBN 978-191442-72-99. Organized geographically into tours, this book features 63 bridges, with full colour photographs of each, together with a short history and details of construction, materials and unique features for them all.

Penelope Harris, *Robert Owen and the architect Joseph Hansom - An unlikely form of co-operation.* (Brewin Books, 2024), £14.95, ISBN 978-1-85858-71-72. When he met Joseph Hansom in Birmingham, Owen was a self-taught manager of successful cotton mills, and promoter of social reform. The much younger Hansom was an ambitious architect, who had won the competition to design Birmingham Town Hall. Birmingham was a proactive town, open to Thomas Attwood's efforts to bring about the Great Reform Bill, and the advancement of newly-formed trade unions. Hansom became so involved in politics that his attention was diverted away from the Town Hall, which resulted in his bankruptcy, after which he was employed by Owen.

Valerie M Hart, *Balsall Heath – A History*, (Brewin Books, 2024), £10.95, ISBN 978-1-85858-767-7. This fully revised, and updated edition of the original 1992 book traces the development of Balsall Heath from sparsely populated heathland in the 18th century, to a genteel neighbourhood in the 1840s, and the busy and crowded suburb of the 1920s and 30s.

Mark Webb, ed., *St Mary's Hall Coventry Tapestry; Weaving the threads together* (Shaun Tyas, 2024). The papers of a 2019 Conference are supplemented by full colour photography and the results of further research.

Next issue: Copy for the next issue of the *Bulletin* must be received by 31 December 2024

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